

outline of one wing either by counting squares on graph paper or by using a gravimetric method, the resulting figure being doubled to obtain total wing area: wing loading, expressed as g/cm^2 , was determined as the net weight divided by the wing area. Where parametric data for a number of individuals of a species are available they are presented as the mean \pm standard deviation and extremes of range. All data refer to adult, non-breeding birds, unless otherwise stated.

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A further note on the status of *Monticola pretoriae* Gunning & Roberts, 1911

by T. Farkas

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In his remarks on *Monticola pretoriae*, Clancey (1968) stated that this species is simply a well-marked race of *Monticola brevipes*. It seems that his opinion has been taken over without further examination of the available material, even by Hall & Moreau (1970).

The fact that *M. brevipes* shows a well-marked seasonal dimorphism, the different stages of which had earlier been misconstrued by Sclater (1930) as morphs, was first described in detail by Farkas (1962), but Clancey evidently overlooked this paper. Later, in a paper on *M. pretoriae* (Farkas 1966), I chose the lack of seasonal dimorphism in *pretoriae* as the main evidence for the reinstatement of it as a good species; this also Clancey appears not to have taken into account.

Clancey (1968) describes 2 male 'intergrades', though it is not clear why he regards these specimens as such, nor is it stated at what time of year they were collected. Certainly, as Clancey describes, the 2 specimens show some white colour on their heads, concealed by blue-grey apices; but this only qualifies them, together with a third specimen from Kosterfontein in Western Transvaal, as adult males of *M. brevipes* in different stages of their eclipse plumage. The dry Griqualand West and adjoining areas of the Orange Free State are, in any case, outside the range of *M. pretoriae* as there is no suitable habitat in that area.

The 2 'type specimens' of *M. brevipes leucocapilla* (Bangs 1930) must be considered invalid. Proof is to be found in the description in both Latin and French by Lafresnaye (1852) of a white-headed adult male of *M. brevipes*. Furthermore, the specimen to which the tag with the inscription '*leucocapilla*' is fitted today, is a plain grey-headed adult male without any trace of white, not even concealed by any blue-grey apices. I am grateful to R. A. Paynter jun. for confirming this for me. Clancey seems to have overlooked the relevant reference in my 1966 paper. It therefore seems clear that Lafresnaye's white-headed specimen must have disappeared, and its detached tag fitted to a similar-looking specimen, which by chance happened to be one of the then unknown *M. pretoriae*. Consequently, no type locality for *leucocapilla* is needed, since Clancey (1968) in any case considers *leucocapilla* to be a synonym of *brevipes*.

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Bird weights from northeastern Argentina

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This paper presents the weights of 244 specimens of birds belonging to 93 species and subspecies, collected during 3 field trips to the so called Mesopotamic Region of Argentina, which comprises the Provinces of Entre Ríos, Corrientes and Misiones. A few papers have supplied weight data of Argentine birds (Fiora 1933, 1934, Contreras 1975, Contreras & Davies 1978), but there is an almost complete lack of information about the weight of Mesopotamic birds.

Unless otherwise indicated, specimens were secured in the following localities: about the Paraná City neighbourhood (PA); in San Cosme gallery forests and swamps (SC); in the jungle, grasslands and swamps of Paso Mbaracayá, on the shore of the Paraná River (PMB); and in Estancia Ibiratingay, in the same latter kind of habitat (EIB). The first locality belongs to the Province of Entre Ríos and the last 3 to the Province of Corrientes.